

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SECTO 06021 171300Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----171303Z 113019 /41
O 171210Z JUN 77
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 6021

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM THE SECRETARY

STATE FOR TARNOFF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN DISCUSSION WITH TRINIDAD PRIME MINISTER ERIC
WILLIAMS

1. I FOUND TRINIDAD PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN IN MANY RESPECTS, YET HIS GOVERNMENT IS IN THE UNUSUAL POSITION OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WHICH IS ALSO PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ITS NEIGHBORS. HE IMMEDIATELY QUESTIONED ME ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO ASSIST JAMAICA, TO WHICH TRINIDAD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE. HE IS PLEASED THAT WE CONSIDER A JAMAICAN AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF TO BE A CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR ANY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, AND IS PREPARED TO JOIN WITH US AND OTHERS IN A CONSORTIUM IF AN IMF AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN KINGSTON.

2. WILLIAMS LEADS A PRAGMATIC AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT CONCERNED TO MAINTAIN AN OPEN AND MIXED ECONOMIC SYSTEM WITH SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN PARTICIPATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SECTO 06021 171300Z

AND INVESTMENT. NOW THAT TRINIDAD'S PROVEN RESERVES OF NATURAL GAS ARE CLEARLY IN EXCESS OF HER OWN AMBITIOUS NEEDS IN CONNECTION WITH HER INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONSIDER A MAJOR LNG PROJECT FOR SALE OF LNG TO THE US. THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THAT WE CONSIDER SOME QUIET BILATERAL TALKS REGARDING THIS LNG PROJECT (IN WHICH US FIRMS WILL FEATURE HEAVILY).

WE ARE NOT CLEAR YET ON JUST WHAT HE HAS IN MIND FOR GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS, BUT HE HAS PROMISED FULLER DETAILS SHORTLY. AN ASSURED MARKET IN THE US IN CERTAINLY PART OF WHAT HE IS SEEKING.

3. WILLIAMS IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE EMERGING MINI-STATES IN THE REGION, OR EVEN ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM VIABILITY OF THE INTEGRATION MOVEMENT IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, HE HAS SEEN TOO MANY AMBITIOUS PROPOSALS FOUNDER IN THE PAST AND THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY IS UNDERGOING ESPECIALLY SEVERE STRAINS NOW IN VIEW OF THE FINANCIAL DISARRAY OF GUYANA AND JAMAICA AS WELL AS THE MORE RADICAL POLITICAL COURSE THOSE TWO NATIONS HAVE EMBARKED UPON. HE NEVERTHELESS STANDS READY TO PROMOTE INTEGRATION AND ASSIST LESS FORTUNATE NEIGHBORS WHERE POSSIBLE.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER IS EXCEEDINGLY SKEPTICAL OF CASTRO'S CUBA, BUT FEELS WE ARE CORRECT TO SEEK RAPPROCHEMENT AS LONG AS IT IS NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF ATTENTION TO THE DEMOCRATIC STATES OF THE REGION.

5. LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, WILLIAMS FIRMLY SUPPORTS OUR EMPHASIS ON THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF ADHERING TO A STANDARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE. HE CONGRATULATED YOU ON YOUR FIRM STAND.
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL GAS, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 06/17/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO06021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: FOR TARNOFF ONLY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840077-2182, N770003-0725
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770645/aaaabnes.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 55fafb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2111515
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARIBBEAN DISCUSSION WIH TRINIDAD PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS
TAGS: OVIP, EAID, ENRG, OGEN, TD, XL, JM, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (WILLIAMS, ERIC)
To: STATE WHITE HOUSE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/55fafb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009